

Developmental Milestones Birth to Age 5

Copyrighted and developed by Ann Stacks PhD, WSU, Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, 71 East Ferry Detroit, MI 48202



Age	Cognitive	Receptive Language	Expressive Language	Fine Motor	Gross Motor	Social-Emotional
4 Months	Explores objects with eyes, hands, mouth; anticipates routines	Turns toward sounds, reacts to different sounds	Coos (aaahh, oooh), cries in different ways to show different needs (hunger, pain, tired)	Reaches for objects; holds objects in hands; follows moving objects with eyes; brings hands to mouth	Holds head steady, rolls from tummy to back, when on tummy pushes up on elbows; moves hands and arms when excited	Smiles spontaneously at people; cries when upset; copies facial expressions
6 Months	Looks for dropped or partially hidden objects; looks at self in mirror; tries to get things out of reach; bangs objects	Responds to own name	Strings vowels together; begins using consonants (b, d); makes sounds to show emotion.	Passes objects from hand to hand; brings objects to mouth	Rolls from front to back and back to front; begins to sit without support; reaches for toys while on tummy	Begins to know if someone is a stranger; responds to other's emotions
9 Months	Plays peek-a-boo; watches the path of something that falls; demonstrates object permanence	Begins to understand "no," knows own name; uses finger to point at things	Uses multi-syllable babble (mamama; babababa)	Picks up small objects between thumb and finger; pokes at objects	Crawls; pulls to stand; holds/shakes objects while seated; brings feet to hands when laying on back	Afraid of strangers; clings to familiar adults
12 Months	Listens to a story; puts objects in containers and takes them out; understands how objects are used (drinks from a cup); follows simple directions (get your shoe)	Responds to requests (show me your nose); uses gestures (shaking head no, wave bye); points to pictures you name	Makes sounds with changes in tone and inflection (gibberish); has a few words and exclamations (da da, ball, uh oh)	Picks up small objects between thumb and finger, releases objects; throws a ball	May stand alone; may take a few steps without holding on; cruises with furniture	Cries when attachment figure leaves and explores in their presence; shows fear in unfamiliar situations; plays social games (pat-a-cake); assists with dressing; looks to caregiver when hurt
18 Months	Knows body parts and everyday items and how they are used; may begin to do simple puzzles & pegboards	Points to show you what he wants; points to familiar items when you ask (e.g. where is the phone)	Says several words; begins to put words together; says no	Eats with a spoon; pulls toys while walking; stacks blocks, scribbles	Walks with coordination; squats; can move from seated to standing without assistance	Temper tantrums increase; stranger anxiety re-emerges; simple pretend play (feeds a doll); explores in caregiver's presence; seeks comfort from caregiver
2 Years	Unscrews a lid; plays with objects as they are used (pretends to drink from a cup); completes rhymes; follows two-step instructions	Points to things in a book; knows names of familiar people; begins to pause when hears inhibitory words ("wait," "no")	Uses 2-4 word sentences; repeats words; names items in a picture book	Builds towers with blocks; puts small items into containers (i.e. cheerios in a bottle)	Walks backward, walks up and down steps with help; runs; stands on tiptoe; kicks a ball	Shows defiant behavior; is excited with other children; copies others; plays chase games
3 Years	Understands what "two" means; completes shape puzzles; matches colors; identifies shapes; Counts to three; can work toys with buttons and moving parts; plays make-believe	Understands pronouns, preposition, past tense, possessives and plurals	Speaks in multiple word sentences that are understandable; uses pronouns; asks multiple word questions; uses verb with -ing ending; says name and age	Copies simple shapes, turns one page of a book at a time; screws and unscrews jar lids; builds tall towers with blocks	Runs; balances on one foot; jumps; kicks a ball; uses stairs unassisted, one foot on each step; climbs	Shows concern when others are upset; shows a wide range of emotions; usually separates easily from caregivers
4 Years	Still cannot tell what is real and what is make-believe; starting to count	Knows basic rules of grammar; knows first and last name; follows 3-part directions (go upstairs, get your shoes and put them in the garage)	Can tell a story, understands past tense; sings songs from memory	Cuts with scissors; buttons; laces; draws shapes	Is able to hop on one foot; walks down stairs alternating feet	Has a preferred friend; engages in imaginary play; prefers to play with others; cooperates with other children; plays mom or dad

Developmental Milestones Birth to Age 5

Copyrighted and developed by Ann Stacks PhD, WSU, Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, 71 East Ferry Detroit, MI 48202



5
Years

Counts to 10; recites ABCs by memory; recognizes letters; is aware of gender; takes another person's perspective; knows more everyday items (like money and food); understands time

See above

Has 5,000 words in vocabulary; can use future tense (school will be fun tomorrow); tells jokes and stories

Draws a person with 6 body parts; uses an advanced pencil grasp; prints name, copies letters

Balances on one foot for at least 10 seconds; skips; can do a somersault; swings and climbs

Follows group rules; plays games with rules